

Message Text

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FOR MRS. STAPLETON

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINR EG
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: MRS. MUBARAK, DR. AMAL
- OSMAN, AND POPE SHENUDA

1. FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION MAY BE OF USE TO MRS. STAPLETON WHEN SHE MEETS WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS DURING HER STAY IN EGYPT.

2. MRS. HOSNI MUBARAK (PRONOUNCED WITH STRESS ON MIDDLE SYLLABLE). MRS. MUBARAK, WHOSE MOTHER WAS BRITISH AND WHOSE FATHER WAS FROM A WELL-KNOWN FAMILY IN MINYA GOVERNORATE, WAS THRUST INTO PUBLIC LIFE WHEN HER HUSBAND BECAME VICE PRESIDENT IN 1975. SHE GRADUATED FROM THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO IN 1976 (THOUGH THEN IN HER FORTIES) WHERE SHE WAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD STUDENT. AT HER HUSBAND'S PERSUASION, SHE EARNED A DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, THOUGH HER PRINCIPAL INTEREST HAS BEEN PSYCHOLOGY. WE UNDERSTAND SHE IS NOW STUDYING FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE. SHE DRESSES FASHIONABLY, AND TAKES AN ACTIVE PART IN CAIRO SOCIAL LIFE. SHE AND THE VICE PRESIDENT HAVE TWO TEENAGE SONS, ALA' AND GAMAL.
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SHE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND HAS AN OUTGOING PERSONALITY. SHE IS A MOSLEM.

3. DR. AMAL ABD AL-RAHIM OSMAN. DR. OSMAN HAS BEEN MINISTER OF INSURANCE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS SINCE FEBRUARY 1977. SHE GRADUATED FROM THE FACULTY OF LAW OF CAIRO UNIVERSITY IN 1955, AND ROUNDED OUT HER LEGAL STUDIES

BY OBTAINING A PHD IN CRIMINAL LAW FROM CAIRO UNIVERSITY AND A PHD FROM ROME UNIVERSITY, BOTH IN 1964. SHE SERVED AS A PROFESSOR AT THE FACULTY OF LAW, CAIRO UNIVERSITY, DURING THE LATER 1960'S, AND ALSO WORKED AT THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND CRIMINAL RESEARCHES. IN 1974 SHE WAS MADE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FEMINIST AFFAIRS AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE ASU (EGYPT'S MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY) AND IN 1976 WAS APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY.

4. DR. OSMAN HAS WRITTEN SEVEN BOOKS DEALING WITH CRIMINAL LAW, PERSONAL STATUS LAW, AND CIVIL LAW. SHE IS MARRIED TO DR. YASIN ANWAR, WHO IS A LECTURER IN CRIMINAL LAW AT AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY. THEY HAVE A SON AND A DAUGHTER. PLEASANT, SOFT-SPOKEN, AND SOMEWHAT SHY, DR. OSMAN HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING EFFECTIVE IN HER JOB. SHE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND SHE HAD HOPED TO VISIT THE U.S. THIS OCTOBER AT OUR INVITATION BUT HAD TO DECLINE IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE CABINET CHANGES AFTER SADAT RETURNS FROM CAMP DAVID. SHE IS A MOSLEM.

5. POPE SHENUDA III. AS THE 117TH POPE OF ALEXANDRIA AND PATRIARCH OF THE SEE OF ST. MARK OF EGYPT, THE NEAR EAST, AND AFRICA, POPE SHENUDA IS THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE WORLD'S COPTIC CHRISTIANS. THE COPTS ARE THE LARGEST EGYPTIAN RELIGIOUS MINORITY AND CONSTITUTE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LARGEST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ESTIMATES OF THEIR NUMBERS RANGE BETWEEN THREE TO SEVEN MILLION. THERE ARE SMALL COPTIC COMMUNITIES IN SUDAN, KUWAIT, THE U.S. AND EUROPE AND A LARGE COMMUNITY IN ETHIOPIA, ALTHOUGH THE COPTIC POPE DOES NOT NOW EXERCISE AUTHORITY OVER THEM.

6. AS POPE, SHENUDA HAS ATTEMPTED TO WIDEN THE INTERNATIONAL ROLE OF THE COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH AND HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY TO VISIT COPTIC COMMUNITIES AND OTHER ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS LEADERS. IN OCTOBER 1972 HE VISITED THE USSR, TURKEY, GREECE, SYRIA, AND LEBANON TO ENCOURAGE CLOSER WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN ORTHODOX COMMUNITIES. IN MAY 1973, POPE SHENUDA PAID A HISTORIC VISIT TO THE VATICAN, THUS BECOMING THE FIRST ORTHODOX PATRIARCH TO VISIT A ROMAN CATHOLIC PONTIFF SINCE THE BREAK BETWEEN THE TWO CHURCHES AT THE COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON IN 451. THE VATICAN VISIT SIGNALLED THE END OF 1500 YEARS OF SHARP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ROMAN AND COPTIC CHURCHES. HE VISITED THE U.S. IN 1977 AND MET BRIEFLY WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.

7. POPE SHENUDA, AN EGYPTIAN BY BIRTH, OBTAINED A BA IN ENGLISH LITERATURE FROM CAIRO UNIVERSITY IN 1947 AND A DEGREE IN THEOLOGY IN 1949 FROM THE COPTIC ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE. AT THE AGE OF 20, HE FOUGHT IN THE 1948 WAR WITH ISRAEL, BUT AFTERWARDS RESIGNED HIS COMMISSION AND ENTERED A MONASTERY. IN 1954 HE WAS ORDAINED A MONK AND SPENT SEVERAL YEARS LIVING IN SOLITUDE. HE WAS MADE BISHOP FOR CLERICAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN 1962. HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS ORATORY AND THEOLOGICAL PREACHING AND HAS AUTHORED SEVERAL BOOKS. HE HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING IN ASSISTING THE BAPTISTS IN EGYPT. SHENUDA IS SOMEWHAT OF AN ASCETIC, AND WE UNDERSTAND HE STILL RETIRES REGULARLY FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION. HE IS ADDRESSED AS "YOUR HOLINESS".
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